



Outlook

Fw: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Fri 5/22/2026 3:56 PM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>**Office of the City Clerk | City of San José**200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Main: 408-535-1260

Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: Sahil Patel [REDACTED]**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2026 3:49 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot.

Ranked choice voting is a better option in many respects. It allows voters to show their true opinion rather than forcing a strategic vote. It also avoids runoffs which both cost money and cause voter fatigue and lower turnout. Allowing for this option is a no brainer, is non political, and is pro democracy. Please vote in favor of ranked choice voting.

Thank you,

Sahil Patel

Downtown San Jose (District 3)



FW: Support Ranked Choicd Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:37 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Sandra Sundberg [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 5:20 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; district8@officeofcouncilmandomingocandelas.ccsend.com

Subject: Support Ranked Choicd Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Thank you,

Sandra Sundberg

Mount Pleasant / District 8



FW: Rules Committee 5/27 - Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:37 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Judy [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 5:45 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Rules Committee 5/27 - Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember Rosemary Kamei,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the Joint Meeting for the Rules and Open Government Committee and Committee of the Whole being held on May 27, 2026.

I am a San José resident, and I urge you to please support ranked choice by voting for the placement of a measure to institute amending the City Charter to allow the option for the City Council to choose to utilize Ranked Choice Voting in the case of special elections to fill vacancies in Mayoral and City Council races on the November 2026 Ballot (item C.1 Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies).

Ranked Choice Voting is desirable because it can save money by not requiring separate runoff elections, avoids the spoiler effect, and can increase voter participation.

Thank you,
Judy Howell

[REDACTED]
West San Jose/District 1

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FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:37 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Petra Pino [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 7:07 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

Ranked Choice Voting:

- Costs less (for example, in the very likely event of a run-off...well, you won't have any of these!)
- More people get their first choice, or compromise choice - more empowerment
- I've heard that the last vacancy - D3? - cost \$3.6 million! What could we have done with those dollars? So many things.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Thank you,

Petra Pino
District 3, San Jose

--

Petra Pino

See what others say about me [on LinkedIn!](#)

Director, [House of Inanna](#)

Steering Committee, [The Belly Dance Guild](#)

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.

~Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

If I can't dance, I don't want to be part of your revolution.

~Emma Goldman [paraphrased]

Talent is a pursued interest. Anything you are willing to practice, you can do.

~Bob Ross

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FW: Ranked Choice Voting for special elections

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:38 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Rebekah Jensen [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, May 22, 2026 7:57 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; district2@bos.sccgov.org

Subject: Ranked Choice Voting for special elections

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Hi,

I'm in District 2 and I want to encourage you to vote YES for having ranked choice voting for special elections on the ballot. The recent runoff elections were costly and confusing, and would have been unneeded if ranked choice voting had been used. The cost for educating the public to how to do that kind of voting would be a lot less than an additional election.

--Rebekah Jensen
Tiffin Drive, San Jose

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Outlook

FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Tue 5/26/2026 7:38 AM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Patrice Steiner [REDACTED]**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2026 10:21 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember Foley,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a longtime resident of San José, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot for voters to decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, it can cost millions of dollars for the city to run a separate runoff. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. Ranked Choice Voting would produce a decisive election, eliminating the need for a second, runoff election.

Lower cost. Greater voter choice. Greater voter participation. In my view, that's a win, all around. This measure doesn't mandate anything. It just gives the Council one more option.

Please leave the choice to San José voters.

Thank you,

Patrice M. Steiner

Cambrian Park/District 9

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)



FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:38 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Carolina Felix Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, May 23, 2026 1:27 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Thank you, Carolina Felix

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FW: Rank Choice Voting for City council person

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:39 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: P McGovern [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 10:00 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Rank Choice Voting for City council person

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I urge the city council to advance the measure on May 27th to use RCV for special elections of council vacancies instead of the more costly second runoff saving the city millions and giving voters more say.

Thank you
Rosaline Graham
[REDACTED]
San Jose, CA 95125

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FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:40 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Vickie Mueller Olvera [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 10:37 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember Campos,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Sincerely,

Vickie Mueller Olvera

Blossom Valley/District 2



FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:40 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Cristina de la Fuente, RN [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 11:28 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Thank you,

Cristina de la Fuente, RN
Healthcare Activist | Santa Clara County



FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies lem C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 7:41 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Marjorie Siegel [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, May 25, 2026 1:40 PM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies lem C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the may 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I am a District 8 resident and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy does not produce a majority winner, the city must run a second, separate runoff. That can cost millions of dollars. The most recent vacancy cost approximately \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election, resulting in lower cost, more vote choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San Jose voters the choice.

Thank-you,

Marjorie Siegel
Evergreen/District 8

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FW: RCV

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Tue 5/26/2026 7:41 AM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Amanda Depaula [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, May 25, 2026 2:21 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** RCV

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I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Thank you,

Amanda Depaula (San Jose- District 1)

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FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 8:03 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Chris Apel [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 8:01 AM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Additionally, with the current fiasco that is our gubernatorial election with its jungle primary, it should be clear that RCV would help alleviate the stress by giving voters what they actually want and someone who is actually representative of them.

Thank you,
Chris Apel
District 1

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FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Date Tue 5/26/2026 10:45 AM

To Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Adam Swift [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2026 10:01 AM

To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>

Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember Mulcahy,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a District 6 resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff — and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Thank you,
Adam Swift



Outlook

FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Tue 5/26/2026 11:38 AM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Brenda Lee [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 11:21 AM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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To: San Jose City Clerk Taber and Council Member Tordillos

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting.

I'm a San José resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San José voters the choice.

Thank you,

Brenda J. Lee

Naglee Park/District 3



Outlook

FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Tue 5/26/2026 1:18 PM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

-----Original Message-----

From: Betty Lee [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 12:52 PM**To:** District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember Domingo Candelas,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the May 27 Rules Committee meeting:

I'm a San Jose resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

RCV would save millions of dollars because the "instant runoff" feature makes special runoff elections unnecessary. For example, if the county had used RCV, we could've expressed our preferences between Neysa Fligor and Rishi Kumar on the same ballot as all the other candidates, eliminating the need to pay for an additional runoff election.

RCV would increase voter representation. Votes for Assessor plummeted from 467,964 in November to only 219,510 in the runoff. The runoff lost the majority of the votes. In addition to being expensive, special runoff elections tend to have low turnout and poor voter representation. Using RCV in the Assessor race would have more than doubled voter participation in the final decision.

RCV allows voters to more accurately express true preferences. Right now, many voters are being pressured to not vote for Matt Mahan in the governor race, for example, because polls suggest that such

a vote would be "wasted". RCV would've let people vote for Matt Mahan without taking their vote away from other candidates with similar policy positions.

We are San Jose. We are hard-working problem solvers. We are not afraid of improvement. RCV would fix many of the problems that we see with our current elections.

Please give us, the voters of San Jose, the chance to choose RCV.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of this issue.

Betty Lee
resident of San Jose District 8

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FW: SUPPORT: Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Tue 5/26/2026 2:44 PM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Carmen Brammer [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 1:50 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>; Mahan, Matt <Matt.Mahan@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** SUPPORT: Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Hi San Jose City Council Rules and Open Government Committee Members and Mayor Mahan,

As CEO/Founder of Global Majority Consulting, I am writing to share my strong support to give San José voters the choice to authorize Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) as an option for filling City Council vacancies. I urge you to refer RCV to the voters on the November 2026 ballot.

As you all are aware, special elections to fill vacancies are incredibly costly and yield a very little in return on investment due to low voter turnout. Under current law, when a candidate does not win a majority outright, San José must hold a separate runoff, doubling the administrative cost and leaving residents without representation for months. According to data compiled by the City Clerk and analyzed by SPUR, the cost of the recent District 3 special election totaled approximately \$4 million. The primary round was estimated at \$2 million, and the final runoff cost an additional \$2 million. Despite that massive expenditure, out of District 3's 48,000 registered voters, [only 8,321](#) actually cast a ballot. The millions spent on this single special election cycle could have instead funded critical community services, such as street repaving, expanded library and park hours, homelessness response, or public safety staffing. With at least one likely Council vacancy on the horizon in 2027, this is no longer a hypothetical expense.

Implementing RCV is another way to help reduce San José's budget deficit. We can avoid costly runoff rounds altogether, saving taxpayer dollars while ensuring that winning candidates earn true majority support in a single, decisive election. Most importantly, this ballot measure does not mandate a one-size-fits-all method; rather, it adds another powerful method to the Council's existing toolkit. Voter approval gives our City the opportunity to choose the most fiscally responsible and practical choice for each specific vacancy: appointment, the existing two-round runoff, or a single-round RCV election. The Council would have additional flexibility to exercise when making their decision.


Furthermore, RCV also improves equity and participation in special elections. Eliminating additional election rounds reduces barriers for working families, seniors, and other underrepresented voters who may struggle to turn out to the poll's multiple times in a few short months. RCV also incentivizes candidates to appeal to a broader electorate, resulting in more collaborative campaigns and outcomes that better reflect the collective will of the community.

RCV has been successfully implemented in dozens of jurisdictions across the Bay Area and the entire country, proving to be easy for voters to navigate regardless of age, race, income level, or language spoken. Santa Clara County's Registrar of Voters currently has the technological capability to implement RCV, making it both practical and fiscally responsible.

By giving voters, the option of RCV for vacancy elections, San José can run efficient special elections, safeguard millions of taxpayer dollars, and reinvest those funds directly into essential public services. It is a true win-win: smarter elections, wiser fiscal management, and stronger democratic outcomes for our community.

It is only right that RCV be included on our November 2026 ballot to let the voters of San José decide whether they're going to equip their City Council with this effective, cost-saving option.

Stay safe, healthy and blessed!

With gratitude,
Carmen Brammer
CEO/Founder, Global Majority Consulting
Former Candidate for San Jose City Council


In memory of my mother

"Grief is in two parts. The first is loss. The second is the remaking of life." --Anne Riophe

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Outlook

FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Date** Wed 5/27/2026 7:35 AM**To** Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (231 KB)

Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5_27.pdf;

From: Gabriela Chavez-Lopez [REDACTED]**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2026 11:07 PM**To:** City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>**Cc:** District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>**Subject:** Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

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Dear Mayor Mahan, Members of the San José City Council, and City Clerk,

Please find attached a **letter of support from the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley regarding Item C.1 for the May 27, 2026 Rules Committee meeting related to Ranked Choice Voting for City Council vacancy elections.**

Thank you for your time and consideration, and for including this communication in the public record.

In collaborative spirit,

~Gabby

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez
Executive Director
Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley
[REDACTED]



Honorable Mayor Mahan and Members of the San José City Council,
Via Email

Dear Honorable Mayor Mahan and Members of the City Council,

On behalf of the Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley (LCSV), **I write to express our strong support for placing the proposed Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) charter amendment for City Council vacancies before San José voters on the November 2026 ballot.**

LCSV has supported Ranked Choice Voting since the City Council considered it in 2021 because we believe it has the potential to increase voter participation, reduce barriers to engagement, and create a more accessible democratic process for underrepresented communities.

As someone who personally participated in San José's recent special election process, I can also speak from firsthand experience about how expensive and time-consuming runoff elections can be for both candidates and voters. Extending special elections across multiple rounds often leads to voter fatigue and significantly lower participation. Consolidating elections into a single process through RCV would help increase engagement while reducing costs for taxpayers.

The 2025 District 3 special election demonstrated the financial impact clearly, costing millions of dollars across two election rounds. At a time when San José faces critical needs related to housing, public safety, homelessness, parks, and neighborhood services, we should be exploring fiscally responsible election models that maintain voter choice while reducing unnecessary public expense.

Importantly, this proposal simply gives voters the option to authorize RCV as an additional tool for future vacancy elections. It expands flexibility for the City without mandating a single approach.

We respectfully urge the Rules Committee and City Council to allow San José voters the opportunity to decide this question in November 2026.

[Redacted signature area]

Gabriela Chavez-Lopez
Executive Director
Latina Coalition of Silicon Valley

[Redacted contact information]



Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies Item C.1 Rules 5/27

From Silicon Valley Young Democrats [REDACTED]

Date Wed 5/27/2026 12:10 PM

To District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; Rules and Open Government Committee Agendas <rulescommitteeagenda@sanjoseca.gov>; Candelas, Domingo <Domingo.Candelas@sanjoseca.gov>; Kamei, Rosemary <Rosemary.Kamei@sanjoseca.gov>; Cohen, David <David.Cohen@sanjoseca.gov>; Doan, Bien <Bien.Doan@sanjoseca.gov>; Foley, Pam <Pam.Foley@sanjoseca.gov>

1 attachment (127 KB)

Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies on the City Council.pdf;

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City Clerk and Members of the Rules and Open Governance Committee,

Please find an attached letter from the Executive Board of the Silicon Valley Young Democrats expressing our strong support for giving San José voters the choice to authorize Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) as an option for filling City Council vacancies. We respectfully urge you to refer this question to the voters on the November 2026 ballot.

Best,
Executive Board of the Silicon Valley Young Democrats

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May 27, 2026

Statement from the Executive Board of the Silicon Valley Young Democrats

RE: SVYD stands in support of Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies on the City Council

Members of the Rules and Open Government Committee, please approve the memorandum by Councilmembers Cohen, Kamei, Mulcahy, and Tordillos to allow for the use of a Ranked Choice Voting system in special elections for vacancies of the Mayor or Councilmembers.

As discussed in the memorandum, the use of a Ranked Choice Voting system allows for the City to meaningfully reduce the budget impact of special elections. Such a system would shorten lengthy periods wherein residents find themselves unrepresented or represented by unelected appointees instead of a community member of their choice.

Voter familiarity relating to Ranked Choice Voting has risen substantially since the Council's most recent discussion of the policy. An increasing number of jurisdictions across the United States have begun to implement the system including the City and County of San Francisco as well as the Cities of Berkeley, Oakland, and San Leandro in Alameda County. High-profile races utilizing Ranked Choice Voting like that of the 2026 New York City Mayoral election have also supported broader awareness of the system.

Further, there is data to suggest that Ranked Choice Voting results in outcomes that are more representative of the full population's preferences.¹ The discrepancy in voter turnout between Primary and Runoff elections is well recognized, doubly so in off-cycle special elections.² Ranked Choice Voting offers a method of avoiding this concern by allowing candidates and voters to identify and target a single election day for attention and turnout.

For the abovementioned reasons, the Executive Board of the Silicon Valley Young Democrats respectfully request the approval of the memorandum by Councilmembers Cohen, Kamei, Mulcahy, and Tordillos and ask that the City Council strongly consider the implementation of Ranked Choice Voting for special elections.

In Solidarity,

The SVYD Executive Board

¹ Dowling, Eveline, and Caroline Tolbert. 2025. "What We Know About Ranked Choice Voting, Updated for 2025." American Bar Association. https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_interest/election_law/american-democracy/our-work/what-we-know-about-ranked-choice-voting-2025/.

² "City Elections in San Jose, California (2025)." n.d. Ballotpedia. Accessed May 26, 2026. [https://ballotpedia.org/City_elections_in_San_Jose,_California_\(2025\)](https://ballotpedia.org/City_elections_in_San_Jose,_California_(2025))

FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council 6/23

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 6/2/2026 7:46 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: lin he <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Monday, June 1, 2026 6:56 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council 6/23

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the June 23 City Council meeting.

I'm a San Jose resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San Jose voters the choice.

Thank you,

Lin He

FW: City Council Meeting on 6/23 -- Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Tue 6/2/2026 7:48 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Alex Shoor [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 12:18 AM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>; tom.charron [REDACTED] Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>; Wilcox, Leland <Leland.Wilcox@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: City Council Meeting on 6/23 -- Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies

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Mayor & Council,

On an item before you at the 6/23 Council meeting, I write to you personally, not on behalf of any organization. As I suspect you know, I'm a San Jose resident in District 6.

The time has come for San Jose to follow the latest important idea in the spirit of good government: ranked choice voting.

For too long, too many of our elections have been too frequent, poorly timed, drawn out, inconclusive, costly, unrepresentative, elitist, and divisive. Ranked choice voting (RCV) has the potential to improve all of these conditions.

RCV can settle elections in a single, decisive election. They are lower cost, offer more voter choice, and create a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

That's why I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

This measure simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San Jose voters the choice.

Here's one way I like to think of ranked choice voting. As a foodie, ranked choice voting reminds me of the scenario where three of your friends invite you out to dinner on a Friday night and ask you what kind of food you want to eat. You wouldn't say, "I will only eat Mexican tonight, or I

won't eat anything at all!" Instead, when asked, most of us say something akin to, "I really feel like Mexican because it's my favorite cuisine, but I also really like Vietnamese, and I could be persuaded to eat soul food tonight too." That's how human beings make many of our decisions - we rank our preferences based on a variety of options. And when we get together and make decisions as a group, what's best is when we strive to make as many of us as happy as possible. So if there are four of us friends eating out together, we'll end up at the restaurant that ranks the highest amongst all of us. That's all ranked choice voting is!

Thanks for considering,
Alex

P.S. Shout out to David Cohen for continuing to lead on this issue!

--

Alex Shoor



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FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council 6/23

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 6/4/2026 3:44 PM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Haz <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, June 4, 2026 3:30 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council 6/23

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the June 23 City Council meeting.

As a San Jose resident, I would like to urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. In fact, the most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give us San Jose voters the choice.

Thank you,

Hailee Adams District 9

FW: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council 6/23

From City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Date Thu 6/11/2026 7:34 AM
To Agendadesk <Agendadesk@sanjoseca.gov>

From: Carolina Felix Garcia [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 10, 2026 6:23 PM
To: City Clerk <city.clerk@sanjoseca.gov>
Cc: District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: Support Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council 6/23

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Dear City Clerk and Councilmember,

Please enter my comments into the public record for the June 23 City Council meeting.

I'm a San Jose resident, and I urge the Council to refer the Ranked Choice Voting charter amendment to the November 2026 ballot so voters can decide.

When a special election to fill a Council vacancy doesn't produce a majority winner, the city has to run a second, separate runoff, and that can cost millions. The most recent vacancy cost roughly \$3.6 million across two elections. RCV would settle these in a single, decisive election: lower cost, more voter choice, and a winner chosen in the higher-turnout first round.

This measure mandates nothing. It simply gives the Council one more option. Please give San Jose voters the choice.

Thank you, Carolina Felix

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From: [City Clerk](#)
To: [Agendadesk](#)
Subject: Fw: No to Ranked Choice Voting
Date: Friday, June 12, 2026 8:23:38 AM

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

How is our service? Your [feedback](#) is appreciated!

From: jonie murphy [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, June 11, 2026 5:42 PM
To: The Office of Mayor Matt Mahan <mayor@sanjoseca.gov>
Subject: No to Ranked Choice Voting

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Dear Matt and fellow council members,

I am writing to respectfully ask that you **vote No** on the upcoming proposal for Ranked Choice Voting (RCV).

I have several concerns regarding this system:

- RCV is extremely difficult to audit, which may fail to meet federal standards for election validity and accountability.
- The system is complex and often confuses voters, leading to a high number of mis-marked and discounted ballots.
- Implementing RCV requires **significant money**. According to the Registrar of Voters, the costs to implement RCV are substantial.

I believe these funds would be better utilized for our Fire and Police budgets, which were recently cut.

Thank you for considering these points.

Sincerely,

Joanie Murphy
District 10

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From: [City Clerk](#)
To: [Agendadesk](#)
Subject: Fw: Support Ballot Measure for Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council June 23 Item 3.3
Date: Friday, June 12, 2026 5:00:30 PM
Attachments: [260623 SJCC submission.pdf](#)

Office of the City Clerk | City of San José

200 E. Santa Clara St., Tower 14th Floor
San Jose, CA 95113
Main: 408-535-1260
Fax: 408-292-6207

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From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, June 12, 2026 4:58 PM
To: City Clerk <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Support Ballot Measure for Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies - City Council June 23 Item 3.3

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Please see the attached PDF as my submission for consideration by the San Jose City Council at their June 23, 2026 meeting. As the subject line of this email states, this is relevant to agenda item 3.3 — their consideration of putting RCV in front of voters in November as an option for special elections.

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I will unfortunately be out of town that day, so will not be able to attend. Please let me know if there is anything else I need to know or do for this to be considered.

John (Jay) Shuler

Support Ballot Measure for Ranked Choice Voting for Vacancies
City Council June 23 Item 3.3

My name is Jay Shuler. I live on Halkins Drive here in San Jose District 9. I am a retired tech worker who is currently working as a musician, private trumpet instructor, and brass music coach at Leigh and Branham high schools. I am also the Adopt-A-Park leader for Houge Park Native Gardens, and — in the interest of full disclosure — the volunteer leader in San Jose for the California Ranked Choice Voting Coalition, or CalRCV.

I am writing today to urge you to support the vote to allow voters to decide on the November ballot whether to approve Ranked Choice Voting as an option for special elections in San Jose.

Implementing Ranked Choice Voting, or “RCV”, also known as “Instant Runoff Voting”, would **save the City money**, while ensuring that winning candidates receive **majority voter support**. RCV is well tested, and its benefits with respect to cost and time savings, ease of implementation and use, the reduction of negative campaign rhetoric, and its overwhelming voter approval are well documented. Most importantly, it is better democracy.

The use of RCV in special elections would demonstrate these benefits to the voters and the Council, such that it can be considered not only for use in special elections, but also for all future elections.

Special elections, in particular, are unpredictable — of the six special elections called in San Jose since 2000, only four were predictable, based on vacancies opened by members being elected to other offices. The other two were made necessary by resignations.

And of these six specials, five went to a runoff, forcing the city to spend millions of precious dollars, not to mention staff time and trouble, both of which could certainly have been put to better use. For example, according to the City Clerk, the 2025 special election for the District 3 council seat cost \$2.5 million, but the runoff cost *an additional \$1.5 million*. Using RCV would have yielded an indisputable winner in a single election, filling the seat quickly and at minimum cost.

Special elections, and in particular runoffs, are notorious for low voter turnout due to voter fatigue, meaning that a tiny minority of voters end up selecting the leadership affecting the entire city.

According to the County Registrar of Voters, putting RCV on the November 2026 ballot would allow RCV to be used as soon as April 2027. If we lose this opportunity, because of the way the San Jose Charter is written, our next opportunity to put it on the ballot will not be until 2028, thus requiring runoffs for any special election before 2029.

NOW is the time to get started.